

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-9, and for also indicating that claims 12-18 include patentable subject matter.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Claims 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner states that it appears that the term --radially-- should be inserted after the term “projecting” in claims 15 and 17. Further, the Examiner states that the phrase “the end surfaces” in claims 16 and 18 lacks proper antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claims 15 and 17 to include the term --radially--. Further, Applicants have amended claims 16 and 18 to resolve any antecedent basis discrepancies. These amendments are thought to resolve the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Morita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,680,818). Solely to advance prosecution of exemplary embodiments of the present invention, Applicants have canceled claims 11 and 12. The features of claim 10 have been included in claims 12, 13, and 17 as these claims were amended into independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have placed the claims in form for allowance. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute other exemplary embodiments whose features are included in canceled claims 10 and 11 in a continuation application.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Application No: 10/781,895

Attorney Docket No.: Q79853

Group Art Unit No.: 3654

Obviousness-type Rejection

New to this Office Action, claims 1-18 stand provisionally rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-19 of co-pending U.S. Application No. 10/784,716. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection noting that in the February 23, 2006 Office Action against the '716 application, the Examiner cites different art for the rejection of the claims than in the present application, and as such, the claims are patentably distinct between the applications.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Kimble
Registration No.: 44,186

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 26, 2006